

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating network traffic analysis tasks to networked devices comprising:

activating respective monitoring components embedded into network interfaces of a plurality of devices of a network;

requesting resource utilization data from a subset of the activated monitoring components;

accepting resource utilization data from the subset of activated monitoring components;

evaluating the resource utilization data;

determining which devices have greatest available resources based at least in part on the resource utilization data; and

allocating network traffic analysis tasks based at least in part on the available resources.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating network traffic analysis tasks to networked devices comprising:

activating a monitoring component embedded into network interfaces of more than one device on a network;

requesting resource utilization data from each activated monitoring component;

accepting resource utilization data from each activated monitoring component;

evaluating the resource utilization data;

determining which device has [[the]] a greatest available resources based at least in part on the resource utilization data; and

allocating the network traffic analysis tasks to the device with the greatest available resources.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating network traffic analysis tasks to networked devices comprising:

- activating a monitoring component embedded into network interfaces of more than one device on a network;

- requesting resource utilization data from each activated monitoring component;

- accepting resource utilization data from each activated monitoring component;

- evaluating the resource utilization data;

- determining ~~[[the]]~~ available resources for each device based at least in part on the resource utilization data;

- allocating ~~[[the]]~~ a network traffic analysis debug task to the device with the greatest available resources; and

- allocating ~~[[the]]~~ a network traffic analysis control task to the device with second greatest available resources.

22-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A network device, comprising:

- a processor;

- a memory; and

- a network interface embedded with a network traffic analyzer, comprising:

- a traffic analyzer filters component that captures data pertinent to diagnosing network problems;

- a traffic analyzer control component that sends the data to the memory and retrieves the data from the memory.

30. (New) The network device of claim 29, wherein the traffic analyzer filters component comprises a source media access control (MAC) identifier (ID) filter component that identifies a source device for the data and a destination MAC ID filter component that identifies a destination device for the data.

31. (New) The network device of claim 29, wherein the traffic analyzer filters component comprises a packet type filter component that determines a type of the data.
32. (New) The network device of claim 29, wherein the traffic analyzer filters component comprises at least one of a sequence number filter component, a packet length filter component, or a checksum data component.
33. (New) The network device of claim 29, wherein the traffic analyzer control component comprises a monitoring component that monitors normal device operations that determines a bandwidth of the processor and the memory available for the network traffic analyzer.
34. (New) The network device of claim 29, wherein the traffic analyzer control component comprises a collection start/stop component that determines at least one start condition for which the network traffic analyzer starts collecting the data and at least one stop condition for which the network traffic analyzer stops collecting the data.
35. (New) The network device of claim 34, wherein at least one of the start condition or the stop condition is triggered by at least one of a time, a presence of a packet type, or an absence of a packet type.
36. (New) The network device of claim 29, wherein the processor executes a normal function mode in which the device is dedicated to normal functions and a network traffic analyzer function mode in which the device is dedicated to network traffic analyzer functions.
37. (New) The network device of claim 29, wherein the processor executes normal functions and network traffic analyzer functions.
38. (New) The network device of claim 37, wherein the processor gives priority to the normal functions and the traffic analyzer functions utilize excess processor and memory bandwidth.

39. (New) A system, comprising:
- a network bus;
 - a first network device connected to the network bus at a first location, comprising:
 - a first processor; and
 - a first network interface embedded with a network traffic analyzer data collection component; and
 - a second network device connected to the network bus at a second location, comprising:
 - a second processor; and
 - a second network interface embedded with a network traffic analyzer control component that controls the network traffic analyzer of the first network device from a remote location.